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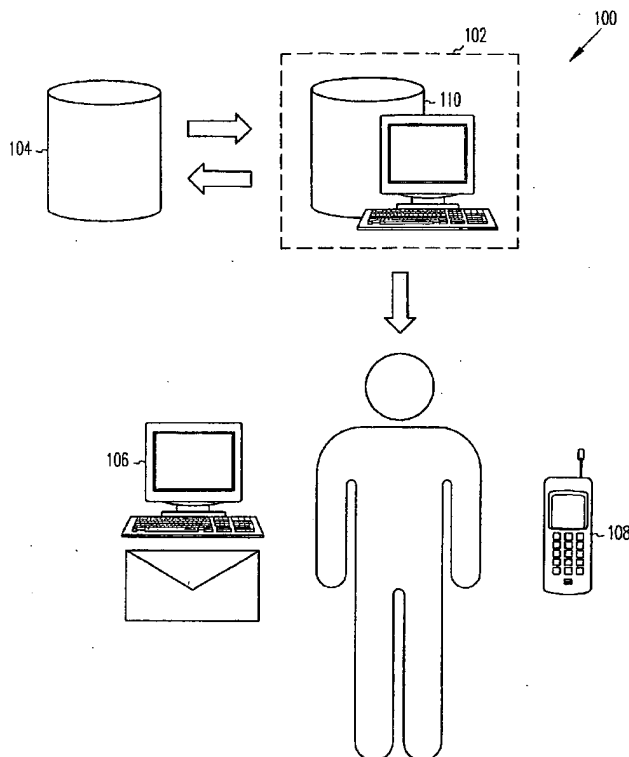
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EXTRACTING AND APPLYING BUSINESS ORGANIZATION INFORMATION



(57) Abstract: A system and a computer-im-
plemented method of generating a report
tailored to a user within an organization
having a hierarchy. Information regarding
the organization hierarchy is provided. The
information includes information locating the
user within the organization hierarchy. Data
is extracted from one or more data sources
and a report is generated. Generating a report
includes filtering the report as a function
of the user's location in the organization
hierarchy. In one approach, a hierarchy
of employees within an organization is
determined by extracting organization
information from a plurality of data sources
and linking employees as a function of the
organization information to form a hierarchy
of employees.

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5 **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EXTRACTING AND APPLYING
 BUSINESS ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

Related Applications

 This application claims priority from United States Provisional
10 Application No. 60/464,507, filed April 21, 2003 and United States Application
No. 10/784,852 filed February 23, 2004, which are incorporated herein by
reference.

Field of the Invention

 The present invention is related to database management, and more
15 particularly to a system and method for extracting organizational structure from
disparate data sources and for using that structure to provide focused reports.

Background Information

 Traditional methods of reporting from databases make it difficult to
provide concise, user-specific information to the user. Instead, most business
20 intelligence-systems rely on users having the time and inclination to log on to the
system, make a request of the server and wade through a mountain of data
presented in a host of reports in order to glean those pieces of data important to
them. Even if the user manages to spot something important in the mountain of
data, there's no mechanism for getting related information, for accessing related
25 applications, for finding other people to consult or collaborate with, or for taking
appropriate action. As a result, the reports are ignored; important nuggets of
information salient to the users' jobs are missed, buried in more junk than the
users have the time or inclination to sift through.

 What is needed is a system and method for extracting and applying
30 business organization information from disparate data sources and for using that
structure to provide reports focused for the user within that organization. What
is also needed is a system and method for accessing additional information and
applications relevant to the report and to the user. Finally, what is needed is a
system and method for communicating and collaborating among users as a
35 function the extracted business organization and the focused reports.

Summary of the Invention

According to one aspect of the present invention, a system and a computer-implemented method of determining a hierarchy of employees within an organization comprises extracting organization information from a plurality of data sources and linking employees as a function of the organization information to form a hierarchy of employees.

According to another aspect of the present invention, a system and a computer-implemented method of generating a report tailored to a user within an organization having a hierarchy comprises providing information regarding the organization hierarchy, extracting data from one or more data sources and generating a report. Providing information includes providing information locating the user within the organization hierarchy. Generating a report includes filtering the report as a function of the user's location in the organization hierarchy.

According to yet another aspect of the present invention, a system and a computer-implemented method of generating a report tailored to a user within an organization having a hierarchy comprises extracting organization information from one or more data sources, determining an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information, extracting data from one or more data sources and generating a report. Determining organization hierarchy includes locating the user within the organization hierarchy. Generating a report includes filtering the report as a function of the user's location in the organization hierarchy.

According to yet another aspect of the present invention, a report generating system is described for use in a data system having a plurality of data sources, wherein each data source includes organization information about people within an organization. The report generating system includes a processor connected to a plurality of data sources, wherein the processor extracts organization information from the plurality of data sources, determines an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information and generates

a report as a function of a user's place within the organization hierarchy. The report generating system further includes means for viewing the report generated by the processor.

According to yet another aspect of the present invention, a report
5 generating system is described for generating reports tailored for people within an organization. The report generating system comprises a report viewing system, a plurality of data sources, wherein each data source includes organization information about people within the organization, and a processor, connected to a plurality of data sources and to the report viewing system,
10 wherein the processor extracts organization information from the plurality of data sources, determines an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information and generates a report as a function of a user's place within the organization hierarchy.

15 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

In the drawings, like numerals describe substantially similar components throughout the several views. Like numerals having different letter suffixes or primed (X') represent different occurrences of substantially similar components.

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a report generating system according
20 to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a method of generating an organizational hierarchy according to the present invention;

Figure 3 is a method of generating a notification report according to the present invention;

25 Figure 4 illustrates representative data for use in generating a hierarchy;

Figure 5 illustrates representative data that can be used to generate a notification report with business organization context;

Figure 6 illustrates a notification report which applies organization context to the data from Figure 5;

30 Figure 7 illustrates data being drawn from a plurality of data sources;

Figure 8 illustrates a method of solving a business problem according to the present invention;

Figure 9 illustrates filtering data from multiple data sources;

Figure 10 illustrates a screenshot from an infoSet wizard used to
5 configure a reporting system according to the present invention;

Figure 11 illustrates categories that can be applied to columns within a data source so that an organizational hierarchy can be derived;

Figure 12 illustrates an example of a data source used to derive an organization hierarchy;

10 Figure 13 illustrates a method of defining how a column of the data in Figure 12 is mapped to an employee table;

Figure 14 illustrates an example of a data source used to source data for a data set according to the present invention;

Figure 15 illustrates a method of defining a data set for each line of
15 Figure 14;

Figure 16 illustrates a method of filtering a data set;

Figure 17 illustrates a notification report according to the present invention;

Figure 18 illustrates a wizard for defining additional filtering;

20 Figure 19 illustrates a notification report formed from the data set filtered as shown in Figure 18;

Figure 20 illustrates a method of selecting operations to be performed on the filtered data shown in Figure 18;

Figure 21 illustrates a notification report formed from the data set filtered
25 as shown in Figure 20;

Figure 22 illustrates a method of adding collaboration links to data displayed with organization context;

Figure 23 illustrates a method of configuring instant messaging;

Figures 24a and 24b illustrate different ways to present a notification
30 report with collaboration links 200

Figure 25 illustrates an organization hierarchy showing members of an organization and their place within the organization;

Figures 26 and 27 illustrate alternate methods of displaying data from notification reports;

5 Figure 28 illustrates a method of configuring notification report delivery;

Figure 29 illustrates representative types of notification reports which can be sent to and types of people who receive them;

Figures 30-32 illustrate examples of user-defined notification reports;

10 Figure 33 illustrates a method for adding custom links to data displayed in a notification report; and

Figure 34 illustrates a notification report based on the configuration chosen in Figure 33.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

15 In the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. It is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and structural changes may be made without departing from the scope
20 of the present invention.

A system 100 for extracting and applying business organization information from disparate data sources and for using that structure to provide notification reports focused for users within that organization is shown in Figure 1. System 100 includes a processor 102 connected to one or more data sources
25 104. Each data source 104 includes organization information about people within an organization. Processor 102 extracts organization information from the plurality of data sources, determines an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information and generates a notification report as a function of a user's place within the organization hierarchy. The notification
30 report is displayed, for example, on the user's workstation 106 (or on another viewing device 108, e.g., telephone). In one embodiment, processor 102

includes memory reading device 110 capable of reading data from a nonvolatile computer-readable medium. Program code for execution on processor 102 could be stored, for example, on a computer-readable medium stored in memory reading device 110.

5 In one embodiment, processor 102 reads information about an organizational hierarchy from one data source 104 and applies it to data from another data source 104, adding a significant amount of information in the process. This new information can be used for decision-making, communication and collaboration.

10 A method of generating an organization hierarchy from one or more data sources 104 is shown in Figure 2. At 120, processor 102 reads organization information from one or more data sources 104 (including, for example, LDAP, Lotus Notes, XML and other files, Relational Databases, and applications that can return the data over the Internet). The information includes, at a minimum,
15 an employee identifier for each person in the organization and a supervisor identifier for each person in the organization with a supervisor. Processor 102 then generates, at 122, an organization chart detailing the organization hierarchy. In one embodiment, the organization chart is presented graphically. A graphical presentation is not, however, necessary for the invention to work.

20 In one embodiment, the hierarchy is stored by processor 102 and refreshed periodically (e.g. daily). In one such embodiment, the hierarchy is based on user IDs. In an alternate approach, the hierarchy is based on names instead of user IDs.

 A method of generating a notification report tailored to one or more users
25 within an organization is shown in Figure 3. In the flowchart of Figure 3, at 140, processor 102 obtains information detailing an organization's hierarchy. In one embodiment, the hierarchy is generated as discussed above in the discussion of Figure 2. Processor 102 moves to 142 and reads data from one or more data sources 104. The data is filtered at 144 and processor 102 generates a report
30 known as a notification report 146 with the filtered data. The notification report 146 can be viewed, stored or delivered to a device 106 or 108.

In one embodiment, processor 102 reads data from the same or (typically) different data sources 104. Some of this data includes user ids. Processor 102 filters this data using thresholds and prepares a notification report.

5 An example of data for generating a hierarchy is shown in Figure 4. In the example shown in Figure 4, Employee ID 160 and Supervisor ID 162 are used to construct the organizational hierarchy. This is an example of data from an application that contains user IDs.

10 An example of data to be used to generate a notification report with business organization context is shown in Figure 5. This data provides information about support calls that a customer has logged. The data identifies each support call with a support call identifier 180 and lists the owner 182 of each support call by user ID 160.

15 It can be clearly seen that the application that provided this data has no understanding of the structure of the organization receiving the support calls. Someone receiving the notification report shown in Fig. 5 would know that the Owner 182 of each support call is an employee. The employee IDs 160 in the data are, however, dry; they add very little information. In order to understand this data the receiver of the notification report will have to look up each employee ID in a different application to find out who they are and where they fit in the organization. This step will need to be performed before these people can be contacted.

25 The example shown in Figure 6 applies organization context to the data from Figure 5. In the example shown in Figure 6, a hierarchy 190 provides organizational context to the data of Figure 5. One can now see the names of the people who received the support calls, their organizations and their supervisors. The hierarchy, therefore, improves the data in a number of important ways:

1) Employee names are added. The viewer now has a name, and can go immediately to email or a phone directory.

30 2) Organizational grouping is evident. It is immediately apparent that the owners of the five support calls fall into only two parts of the organization. In a

large organization, organizational grouping can give early warning of problem clusters, or of the need for additional training or resources.

3) Contact reduction. It is easy to see that by contacting Thomas Jaroz about this topic I can reduce the amount of communication time needed to
5 discuss this topic.

4) Contact choice. You may know that Thomas Jaroz is on vacation. In the example shown, we have turned four employee IDs into fourteen employees names that can be contacted. Communication choices can be made on the urgency and priority of the problem, not on the ability of the viewer to navigate
10 the organization chart.

5) Closest single common parent. It also evident where in the organization a single common owner can be found, in this case Cole Orndorff. Without the calls owned by Dawn Adams the closest single common parent would be Thomas Jaroz.

15 Someone reading this notification report could now contact each of the employees for an update on the problems they were solving, or go to their supervisor for a slightly more abstracted view. The data is the same, but with the hierarchy added it is much easier to understand and act upon. In addition, as you look at the notification report day to day, the person most closely related to the
20 issue to be addressed may move up the organization. On one day, it may be a line manager in Dallas. On another, it might be the head of customer service.

The hierarchy adds a lot of contextual and important information to data which is without meaningful context. That hierarchy can be applied to any data source. There simply has to be one or more data sources from which you can
25 extract organization structure and some way to tie the organization structure to the data in the data source being analyzed.

It should be clear that the data source being analyzed does not have to be aware that a field within it is an employee. The application which tracks calls in Figure 5 simply assigns an owner to each call. It doesn't care if the owner is an
30 employee. Similarly, many database applications have custom fields. For instance, a customer could say the second custom field is my "feed-back

manager,” that the role of feedback manager is specific in our company and that it is something we consider to be a strategic advantage in the way we handle our customers so it is specific to our customer.

When the data is set up to be analyzed, processor 102 doesn't know that
5 the second custom field is actually an employee of the customer. As part of the setup, it is told that second custom field is a person within the organization. Processor 102 can then tie the data from the second custom field to the organization hierarchy to shown hierarchical data. No existing programs have to be modified. Processor 102 is the only one that has to know that the data is
10 actually an employee and that we can apply a hierarchy to it. We can, therefore, apply a hierarchy to any data source, it doesn't need to be related in anyway to where the hierarchy came from.

Processor 102 can pull the hierarchy from a number of different places. An illustration showing data being drawn from a plurality of data sources 104 is
15 shown in Figure 7. In the system shown in Figure 7, a driver 300 is written for each data source 104 to extract data relevant to the notification report being generated. In the example shown, driver 300.1 extracts data from a relational database 104.1, driver 300.2 extracts data from, for example, an XML document 104.2, and driver 300.3 extracts data from a file 104.3.

20 In one embodiment, system 100 includes a number of predefined drivers 300. If employee information is stored within an Oracle database, we would create and store a predefined driver which can be pointed to specific fields within an Oracle database. Or a driver might be written to extract data from a particular application running on the Oracle database. The data could then be used to
25 generate an employee table 302 as part of info set 301. Employee table 302 is stored in memory device 110. In one embodiment, system 100 is configured such that new drivers can be added to pre-defined drivers 300 without rebuilding system 100.

Processor 102 would then connect to another application. For instance, it
30 might submit a URL and receive an XML or other such document. Processor 102 creates a data set 304, categorized again by the same categorization used in

generating employee table 302 (e.g., by employee ID). Now processor 102 has something in common between employee table 302 and data set 304.

Data set 304 may have more than one column that can be associated with a member of the organization. For instance, a data set 304 drawn from customer information may include an account manager, a sales representative and a customer service representative. Processor 102 would categorize each of these three columns the same way. In one approach, a user configures processor 102 to select a particular role (e.g., sales representative) for generating the hierarchy. In another approach, a notification report includes a separate hierarchy for each role. In yet another approach, the role each member plays within the hierarchy is indicated by color coding the name or user ID of the member, or through the use of symbols or other such indicators.

In one embodiment, the location of the column to be used as the employee ID is stored as metadata. In addition, metadata stores queries into each of the data sources 104, locations and format of data to be used within the data sources 104 and any parameters controlling access to data sources 104.

Metadata is also used to store actions to be performed on data extracted from data sources 104. For instance, calculations may be performed on certain pieces of data (e.g., calculating the average amount of time to respond to an event), or one set of data may be mapped into another set of data (e.g., a user ID in one data source 104 may be mapped using a user ID to employee ID mapping to create an intermediate data source 104).

Once you have info set 301, you can solve particular business problems. For instance, you can generate a notification report highlighting late paying customers sorted by sales representative. Or you can identify customers dropping services by account representative. Or you can highlight customers meeting predefined criteria by account representative.

A method of solving a business problem is shown in the flowchart of Figure 8. At 320, processor 102 generates an organization hierarchy. At 322, processor 102 builds one or more data sets 304. At 324, data from the one or more data sets 304 is mapped to the organization hierarchy. In one embodiment,

building the one or more data sets 304 includes filtering the data with thresholds stored as metadata.

5 An example of this is shown in Figure 9. In the example shown in Figure 9, cost actuals are stored in one data source 104.1. A database of the customers assigned to each employee is stored in data source 104.2. A table of expected costs by industry is stored as a file in data source 104.3.

10 Processor 102 reads the cost actuals data from data source 104.1 and the customer assignment information from data source 104.2 and generates a cost actuals per customer by employee in data set 304. In addition, data set 304 includes a mapping of customer to industry. (Or the mapping of customer to industry may be in another file 304 altogether.) The data in data set 304 is then filtered using expected costs per industry taken from with table of expected costs by industry in data source 104.3.

15 The resulting filtered data is mapped to the organization hierarchy and displayed.

Other business problems can be solved as well. You might want to focus on customers who are late paying their bills. Processor 102 would go out to an application or a database 104 and create a data set 304 which includes customer invoice history. We may have another data source 104 which maps each
20 customer to an employee. In addition, we may have a further mapping of customers to sales representatives, to account managers, or to direct sales agents. That information may or may not be part of the data in the first data source 104.

At this point processor 102 creates the notification report. The notification report selects information from the one or more data sets 304 we
25 created to solve the business problem. In this case, processor 102 creates a notification report containing the names of late paying customers. In other situations, the notification report could be based on anything you can get to from any of the data sources 104. For instance, it could be utilization rates of employees, or people on training courses that are being rescheduled. It could be
30 people who own a certain problem within the organization, it could be someone who has requested a purchase order, or it could be the uses for certain resources.

Processor 102 can track changing situations. For instance, you might have a list of items returned to warehouses due to shipping errors. The total number of items is calculated for each warehouse and a list of warehouse with an unacceptable number of returns is created. Each month processor 102 runs the list and compares it to the list generated in the previous month to generate a list of warehouses that used to be acceptable, but are no longer. The application tracking the returns may not be able to do this calculation. In addition, the application may not be able to tie the warehouses to particular location managers. The creation of notification reports 146 by processor 102 from data sets 304 is therefore very valuable

Hierarchy is used to provide collaboration opportunities and context. It can also be used for grouping. For instance, a notification report lets you know that there may be a problem with one or more people within my organization. The problem may be a management problem, or a personnel problem. For instance, a notification report may show that radiology nurses are underutilized. That is, that across the entire organization, it is always the radiology nurses who are underutilized. Such a problem may only become apparent when you have categorization for things like roles. That is, the application tracking a nurse's time card may not know anything about the role of that person. All it knows is that they clock in at this time and clock out at that time. We get a better understanding of the problem by applying the data to the organization hierarchy.

Configuration of the Reporting System

A method for configuring processor 102 is discussed next. Figure 10 illustrates a screenshot from an infoSet wizard used to configure reporting system 100. As shown in the embodiment shown in Figure 10, the first step is to define an employee table 302. As can be seen in Figure 10, data can be drawn from any of the listed data types 360. These include delimited documents, Lawson DME, Hyperion Essbase, a JDBC relational database, LSN internal data, LDAP, a Java Property document and an XML document. Other data types can be added by defining the appropriate drivers 300.

Figure 11 illustrates categories that can be applied to columns within a data source 104 so that an organizational hierarchy can be derived. As can be seen in Figure 11, contact data section 380 includes a number of different categories used to categorize data from a data source 104. The original data source 104 do not need to know about the categories available to processor 102. This information is part of the stored metadata. In the example shown, the most important categories are Employee/User ID 382 and Supervisor ID 384 (in order to build the hierarchy). Other important categories include Name 386, Email 388 and Instant Messaging ID 390.

An example of a data source 104 used to derive an organization hierarchy is shown in Figure 12. In the example shown in Figure 12, each line 161 includes an entry for a particular employee. Each entry includes their name 166, their employee ID 160, their supervisor ID 162, their telephone number 166, their department 168 and their email address.170. Figure 13 shows how the data from data source 104 in Figure 12 is mapped to an employee table 302.

As can be seen in Figure 13, each line 402 in screen shot 400 defines how a column of the data in Figure 12 is mapped to employee table 302. This includes a category 404 from the contact data category list 380. For instance, the first column is an integer mapped to the supervisor ID category (see categorization column 404). This information is stored by processor 102 as metadata. Where a column in the dataset 304 includes a delivery destination (such as an email address, fax number, or instant messaging id) the metadata for the employee table 302 includes an indication 406.

In one embodiment, a key/attribute column is used to define how each column can be used in the creation of a notification report. Data denoted as key is data that can be used in defining the uniqueness of a row, or in linking between datasets, or as items to be aggregated (e.g. employee id, customer id, location code). Data denoted as a measure is numeric or date data that can be used in calculations or compared to thresholds (e.g. salary, invoice amount, due date). Finally, data denoted as an attribute is data that is useful information but that is not aggregated, compared or used to for links (e.g. phone number).

An example of a data source 104 used to source data for data set 304 is shown in Figure 14. In the example shown in Figure 14, each line 420 includes an entry for a particular problem call. Each entry includes a call ID 422, a customer ID 424, and an owner ID 426.

5 As can be seen in Figure 15, data set 304 is defined for each line 420 of Figure 14. Each line 440 in Figure 15 defines a column in data set 304. Column 442 defines categories (such as contact data 380) used to tie data set 304 to employee table 302. As can be seen in Figure 15, the owner column 426 in Figure 14 has been tied to Employee/User ID category 382.

10 As noted in Figure 3, data set 304 may be filtered. An example of this is shown in Figure 16. In the example shown in Figure 16, data set 304 can be filtered based on call ID 422, customer ID 424, product group 428, system code 430, customer name 432 and owner 426. In addition, an aggregation can be performed by processor 102. For instance, the number of calls assigned to each
15 employee can be determined by checking box 438 in Figure 16. The aggregation is not a capability of the application or data source 104 where the data is obtained. It is performed by processor 102 as part of the building of a notification report 460 from an info set 301.

 The resulting notification report 460 is shown in Figure 17. Here, each
20 owner ID 426 is associated with one or more support calls. Details about the support calls can be obtained by clicking details 462. In the embodiment shown, underlining the entry (as in details 462) indicates you can click that item for further details.

 A wizard 488 for defining additional filtering is shown in Figure 18. In
25 the example shown in Figure 18, users select parameters 480 and threshold conditions 482 and 484 that must be met for the entry to be in a notification report 460. A notification report 490 formed from the data set 304 filtered as shown in Figure 18 is shown in Figure 19. In one embodiment, notification report 490 includes a comment line 492 listing the conditions met by the data in
30 notification report 490.

Wizard 488 also lets the user select operations to be performed on the filtered data. In the example shown in Figure 20, the data set 304 "Counts of Support Calls for each Employee" has been filtered by the conditions 500 stored for "Employees with more than 5 Support Calls". The user now selects a
5 notification report format based on drop down menu 502 and column 504. The result is shown in Figure 21. In another embodiment, the intermediary information used to create the hierarchy is stored within a notification report.

In one embodiment, each notification report is stored in a table as a collection of attributes that describe the name of the notification report and who
10 owns it. And then for each piece of data, it defines the data set 304 to go to and the subset of each data set to include. The table also defines any filters, thresholds and calculations that are applied to generate new tables. The data may be filtered before being stored in a data set 304, or may be filtered dynamically coming out of one or more data sets 304.

15 In one embodiment, system 100 is capable of comparing a new list to a previous list. For instance, one might want to look at the list of customers who are no longer paying for gold-level support. We have to keep a list of who were the customers last time and a list who were the customers this time. The lists are compared and an exception list generated. The current list is then stored as the
20 previous list.

Adding Collaboration Links to the Hierarchical Data

Once a hierarchical notification report is generated, it can be distributed by email or through instant messaging. Instant messaging can be used not only
25 to deliver the notification report; it can also be used to solve a business problem, by facilitating collaboration directly from the report.

In one embodiment, processor 102 includes the capability to add collaboration links 200 to data displayed with organization context. One such embodiment is shown in Figure 22. In the approach shown in Figure 22, each
30 collaboration link 200 includes an icon 202 and a check box 204. These links

can be used to enable an Instant Messaging (IM) service to show the viewer the people who are online and available to collaborate.

As noted above, the data can be read from a number of sources 104. The data sources do not need to know about Instant Messaging. Instead, processor
5 102 stores meta-information regarding as part of info set 301 in, for example, media reading device 110.

In the example shown in Figure 22, each notification report includes an instant messaging capability. In the embodiment shown in Figure 22, an icon
204 and a check box 202 have been added to the data displayed in Figure 6. Icon
10 204 indicates if that person is online. Clicking on an icon 204 initiates an IM session with the person associated with the icon 204. Check box 202 is used to invite one or more people into a chat regarding the data in the notification report.

In one embodiment, each employee ID 160 includes a link to the person's email address. Clicking on the user ID opens a new message to that person.

15 The example shown in Figure 22 shows how system 100 can provide a collaboration wrap around any application. Once again, this again is driven off the fact that we categorized something within the application as an employee ID. The application may know nothing about instant messaging. It may not even know it is storing data that is or can be mapped to an employee identifier.
20 Instead, processor 102 applies the instant messaging icons to data when it is displayed. That is basically a generic capability to be able to apply instant messaging to data from any source.

In the example shown in Figure 22, once processor 102 applies a hierarchy, it can apply the instant messaging icons 204 to the hierarchy. A
25 unique thing here is that when it is applied to the hierarchy, more people who may be able to solve the business problem are displayed. If I have ten rows of data, I may end up with 20 different people in a hierarchy. The person I may want to contact may not be on line, but his supervisor might be. I can very quickly find out what the issue is without having to resort to going somewhere
30 else in the organization chart or picking up the phone or sending an email. You have the power of instant messaging.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 22, the check boxes 202 next to each contact can be used. As noted above, system 100 provides many more points of contact and an icon 203 which can be used as an on-line indication.

5 In the embodiment shown in Figure 22, if the user sees a number of people on line, he can invite them into a group chat. He simply clicks on the check box 202 next to each person he wants to include and then clicks on group chat 206. The software then dynamically creates a chat room and invites each of these people checked to join the chat. So system 100 can dynamically create a unique chat room based on a combination of the exception data generated for the
10 notification report, the hierarchy applied and the selection of the users based on who was on line.

Figure 23 shows a method of configuring instant messaging. The wizard 488 shown in Figure 23 allows the user to select what will be displayed as part of the notification report. In the embodiment shown, the user can select the
15 notification report to be displayed and the format using drop down menu 210. Each notification report can include custom links as discussed below.

Figures 24a and 24b illustrate different ways to present a notification report with collaboration links 200. In the example shown in Figure 24a, an icon 204 indicates if the user is on line by lighting up icon 204 as shown at 210. In
20 the example shown in Figure 24b, the name of the user is color coded to indicate if the user is on line. Clicking on the user name will bring up an IM session.

Other indicators could be used as well.

Burst Notification Based on the Hierarchical Data

25 In the example given above for tracking late paying customers by account representative, the resulting notification report is a notification report with a hierarchy that showed where the account representatives fit into the organization. In previous systems, such reports were delivered to each account representative. It was up to them to sift through the data to extract only those pieces pertinent to
30 the particular account representative.

In contrast, in one embodiment, system 100 uses the hierarchy to burst tailored messages to each account representative. Bursting is where processor 102 takes one notification report and breaks it into a lot of smaller notification reports. If we take the example above, you probably have an organization that is fairly symmetrical above each account representative. Account representatives report to regional managers, who report to area executives, who report to the sales VP. When bursting is enabled, processor 102 breaks the hierarchy into views relevant to each account representative and only sends those views to each account representative.

For example, the information systems department wants to periodically notify users if they have over a gigabyte of data in their mailbox. At the same time, they want to notify the person's supervisor and the supervisor's supervisor. The set of people with mailboxes greater than one gigabyte in size is distributed across the organization; they are not likely to be at one particular level. An example of this is shown in Figure 25.

In the example shown in Figure 25, organization hierarchy 702 shows each member of an organization and their place within the organization. As shown in Figure 25, members B and C report to member A while members D and E report to member B, and so on.

An asterisk is shown next to each member who has over a gigabyte of data in their mailbox. As noted above, the information systems department wants to periodically notify users if they have over a gigabyte of data in their mailbox. At the same time, they want to notify the person's supervisor and the supervisor's supervisor. To accomplish this, processor 102 generates a notification report at predefined intervals containing each member with more than one gigabyte of information in their mailbox and applies the organization hierarchy to it. It then bursts a notification report to each of the individuals, to their supervisors and to their supervisor's supervisor.

In the example shown in Figure 25, this would entail sending an email to members G, D and B regarding member G, an email to members E, B and A regarding member E, an email to members K, I, and F regarding member K, an

email to members L, I and F regarding member L, an email to members M, L and I regarding member M, and an email to members J, F and C regarding member J.

In one embodiment, the email to member B combines the information in the email to member G with the information in the email to member E. Similarly,
5 the email to member I combines information in the emails to members K, M and L, and so on.

In an organization having thousands of members, the notification report is sent, therefore, only to those who can do something with the information they receive and only contains information relevant to that person.

10 As noted above, data within a single notification report can be read from one or more data sources. The notification report creator specifies which data column contains recipients or data from which recipients can be derived. Processor 102 filters all of the tables in the notification report for each recipient and generates a document to be delivered.

15 Recipients can be derived in different ways. For instance, recipients email addresses can be pulled from the data column. In another approach, email addresses can be constructed by combining the data in the column with a format, e.g. [value]@lawson.com, where [value] will be replaced with values from the data column. In another approach, if the data column contains employee ids
20 email addresses can be pulled from a table of information about employees (this information can be read from a number of data sources). This can also be performed for customer IDs, vendor IDs or any other kind of ID that processor 102 can map to a delivery address.

Furthermore, if the data column contains employee ids and processor 102
25 has been provided with hierarchical information, recipients can be derived from the organization within the hierarchy. The recipient(s) can be the supervisor of the employee, the supervisor's supervisor, the person at the top of the organization, or people at specific levels within the organization (e.g., the second, third or fourth level of the organization).

30 Notification report recipients can be determined from the data being filtered using complex business logic. A message can be generated to hourly

workers who haven't filled in their timecards. A summary message could be sent to their supervisor, and a summary of that to the supervisor's supervisor. The result is a system which efficiently handles large volumes of notification reports with very little administration.

5 In one embodiment, any recipient will only receive one document. Processor 102 collates any data necessary to in order to do this. As noted above, in one embodiment, each table is stored as XML. When the hierarchy is applied, each entry in the table is modified to include the member and all members above that member in the hierarchy. When the notification report is displayed the
10 display program looks at each row and determines how to display the data in the most optimal way. For hierarchical bursting, processor 102 goes to each row and adds each member listed in the row to a list. Processor 102 then goes to the next row and adds any members it finds that are not already on the list to the list. Then, starting at the first person on the list, the table is traversed to extract data
15 relevant to that member. An email containing that data is then sent to that member and processor 102 moves to the next person on the list.

 In another embodiment, an email for each row in the table is sent to all members listed in the row.

 In one embodiment, notification reports from processor 102 are displayed
20 in workstation 106 or other viewing device 108 in the form of dashboards or dials. One such embodiment is shown in Figure 26. In the embodiment shown in Figure 26, icons 220 are colored green 222, yellow 224 or red 226 as a function of where a value falls within a range. In the example shown, the color changes as the data reported moves across the range. Such a dashboard could be
25 displayed in the morning when the system first connects to processor 102, or could be refreshed periodically during the day. The dashboard could also be updated when a change occurs which pushes through a threshold. For instance, processor 102 could push a notification message to workstation 106 when an indicator icon 220 would switch from green to yellow, or from yellow to red.

A different type of display is shown in Figure 27. In the system of Figure 27, dials 240 and indicator bars 242 are used to shown not only the state of the data, but also its value.

A method of configuring notification report delivery is shown in Figure 28. In the example shown in Figure 25, wizard 488 configures filtering and delivery of notification report data through a series of drop down menus 520 through 528. In the embodiment shown, menu 520 defines the table within the notification report 146 used to determine who will receive the notification report message. Recipients will be identified based on the column identified in menu 522, and using an option from menu 524 that specifies relationships with the values in the column or with the top of the organization.

The email address used for each recipient and any delivery options are defined in menus 526 and 528, respectively. In one embodiment, a check box 530 is also supplied to enable parallel delivery of notification reports through instant messaging as discussed above.

An example of the types of notification reports which can be sent to and the people who receive them is given in Figure 29. An example of a notification report which would be sent to Mike Amend is given in Figure 30. An example of a notification report which would be sent at the same time to Nancy Anderson is shown in Figure 31. Finally, an example of a notification report which would be sent at the same time to Jean O'Neill is shown in Figure 32.

In order to do the bursting, processor 102 needs an ID for a member of an organization and an email associated with that member. In one embodiment, processor 102 operates without hierarchy information to send burst notification reports to members of a group. For instance, system 100 may have an info set 301 which has customers and the customer contact email. Processor 102 can burst notify customers to inform them of invoices that can be fulfilled because products were out of stock.

Similarly, processor 102 could burst out to vendors, telling them that there was a mismatch between their purchase order and their invoice and that the invoice would not be paid until the mismatch was resolved. In one such

embodiment, system 100 has one table which lists all of the mismatched invoices and another table listing email addresses for each vendor. Processor 102 goes to the vendor table to get the mapping between the vendor ID and the email. It then filters the mismatched invoices for predefined criteria. Processor 102 then sends
5 out unique emails to each of the vendors based on the filtered data.

Adding Custom Links to Notification Reports

A method for adding custom links to data displayed in a notification report is shown in Figure 33. In the example shown in Figure 33, the notification
10 report associated with "Employees with more than 5 Support Calls" discussed above can be configured in a number of ways to add additional information to the notification report. In the example shown, one may choose between displaying no links (804), displaying a "details" link on each row (802), or displaying a customized link (806). If the customized link is chosen, one can
15 choose from a number of analyses 808 tied to the employee ID parameter, or can associate another link (810) with one of the displayed parameters. In the example shown, a link is indicated between the employee ID and the warning calls assigned to that employee. A comment field 816 is included for clarity.

One can also include links to other applications. For instance, as is
20 shown in Figure 33, at 812, one can make a link between the call ID and an application named "CT". Other links can be made as well.

A notification report based on the configuration chosen in Figure 33 is shown in Figure 34. Each user ID is underlined. In this embodiment, the underlining indicates one can double click on the user ID to be taken to the
25 linked analysis. In the embodiment shown, a fly by help display 840 displays the comment field 816 from Figure 33.

In one embodiment, a link is provided into another notification report, which may be the derived piece. For instance, one notification report shows customers who have more than four open support calls. The list may include ten
30 customers, with each customer underlined to show that a link exists to some other report or application. If the user clicks on the name of the customer,

processor 102 displays the notification report that lists the six support calls for this customer. When the user is looking at that, he may see that the support calls are only owned by two people. If he clicks on the name of one of those people, processor 102 displays a notification report which shows all of the cases that
5 person is working on. Now, if he wants to solve this customer's problem, he knows that there are only two people in the organization that can help him. He may find out that one of the people has 120 cases he is working on and realize the person is overloaded. Or he may click on the case number for this particular case and be taken by processor 102 into the application 104 where we got the
10 customer call data.

In the above discussion and in the attached appendices, the term "computer" is defined to include any digital or analog data processing unit. Examples include any personal computer, workstation, set top box, mainframe, server, supercomputer, laptop or personal digital assistant capable of embodying
15 the inventions described herein.

Examples of articles comprising computer readable media are floppy disks, hard drives, CD-ROM or DVD media or any other read-write or read-only memory device.

Portions of the above description have been presented in terms of
20 algorithms and symbolic representations of operations on data bits within a computer memory. These algorithmic descriptions and representations are the ways used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. An algorithm is here, and generally, conceived to be a self-consistent sequence of steps leading to a desired
25 result. The steps are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated. It has proven convenient at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to these signals as bits, values,
30 elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers, or the like. It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the

appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussions, terms such as “processing” or “computing” or “calculating” or “determining” or “displaying” or the like, refer to the action and processes of a
5 computer system, or similar computing device, that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (e.g., electronic) quantities within the computer system’s registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

10 Although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that any arrangement which is calculated to achieve the same purpose may be substituted for the specific embodiment shown. This application is intended to cover any adaptations or variations of the present invention. Therefore, it is intended that
15 this invention be limited only by the claims and the equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method of determining a hierarchy of employees within an organization, comprising:
 - extracting organization information from a plurality of data sources; and
 - 5 linking employees as a function of the organization information to form a hierarchy of employees.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein linking includes displaying a graphical representation of the hierarchy of employees.
- 10 3. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method of claim 1.
- 15 4. A computer-implemented method of generating a report tailored to a user within an organization having a hierarchy, the method comprising:
 - providing information regarding the organization hierarchy, wherein
 - providing information includes providing information locating the user within the organization hierarchy;
 - 20 extracting data from one or more data sources; and
 - generating a report, wherein generating a report includes filtering the report as a function of the user's location in the organization hierarchy.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein generating further includes delivering
- 25 the report via instant messaging.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein delivering the report via instant messaging includes indicating active users.
- 30 7. The method of claim 4, wherein delivering the report via instant messaging includes retrieving the user's instant messaging address.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein delivering the report via instant messaging includes indicating active users.
- 5 9. The method of claim 4, wherein generating further includes delivering the report via email.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein delivering the report via instant messaging includes retrieving the user's instant messaging address.
- 10 11. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method of claim 4.
- 15 12. A computer-implemented method of generating a report tailored to a user within an organization having a hierarchy, the method comprising:
extracting organization information from one or more data sources;
determining an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information, wherein determining organization hierarchy includes locating the
20 user within the organization hierarchy;
extracting data from one or more data sources; and
generating a report, wherein generating a report includes filtering the report as a function of the user's location in the organization hierarchy.
- 25 13. The method of claim 12, wherein generating further includes delivering the report via instant messaging.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein delivering the report via instant messaging includes indicating active users.

30

15. The method of claim 12, wherein delivering the report via instant messaging includes retrieving the user's instant messaging address.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein delivering the report via instant
5 messaging includes indicating active users.
17. The method of claim 12, wherein generating further includes delivering the report via email.
- 10 18. The method of claim 17, wherein delivering the report via email retrieving the user's email address.
19. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system
15 for executing the method of claim 12.
20. A report generating system for use in a data system having a plurality of data sources, wherein each data source includes organization information about people within an organization, the report generating system comprising:
20 a processor connected to a plurality of data sources, wherein the processor extracts organization information from the plurality of data sources, determines an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information and generates a report as a function of a user's place within the organization hierarchy; and
25 means for viewing the report generated by the processor.
21. A report generating system for generating reports tailored for people within an organization, the system comprising:
a report viewing system;
30 a plurality of data sources, wherein each data source includes organization information about people within the organization; and

- a processor connected to a plurality of data sources and to the report viewing system, wherein the processor extracts organization information from the plurality of data sources, determines an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information and generates a report as a function of a
- 5 user's place within the organization hierarchy.
22. A computer-implemented method of delivering reports tailored to users within an organization having a hierarchy, the method comprising:
- extracting organization information from one or more data sources;
- 10 determining an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information, wherein determining organization hierarchy includes locating the users within the organization hierarchy;
- extracting data from one or more data sources;
- generating a report for each user, wherein generating a report includes
- 15 filtering each user's report as a function of the user's location in the organization hierarchy; and
- delivering the reports via instant messaging.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein delivering the report via instant
- 20 messaging includes indicating, within one or more reports, users who are available on a network.
24. The method of claim 22, wherein delivering the report via instant messaging includes retrieving each users' instant messaging address.
- 25
25. The method of claim 22, wherein delivering the report via instant messaging includes adding links within each report to supporting data.
26. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions
- 30 thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method of claim 22.

27. A computer-implemented method of delivering reports tailored to users within an organization having a hierarchy, the method comprising:
- extracting organization information from one or more data sources;
 - 5 determining an organization hierarchy from the extracted organization information, wherein determining organization hierarchy includes locating the users within the organization hierarchy;
 - extracting data from one or more data sources;
 - generating a report for each user, wherein generating a report includes
 - 10 filtering each user's report as a function of the user's location in the organization hierarchy; and
 - delivering the report via email.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein delivering the report via email includes
- 15 retrieving each users' email address.
29. The method of claim 27, wherein delivering the report via email includes adding links within each report to supporting data.
- 20 30. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method of claim 27.

1/33

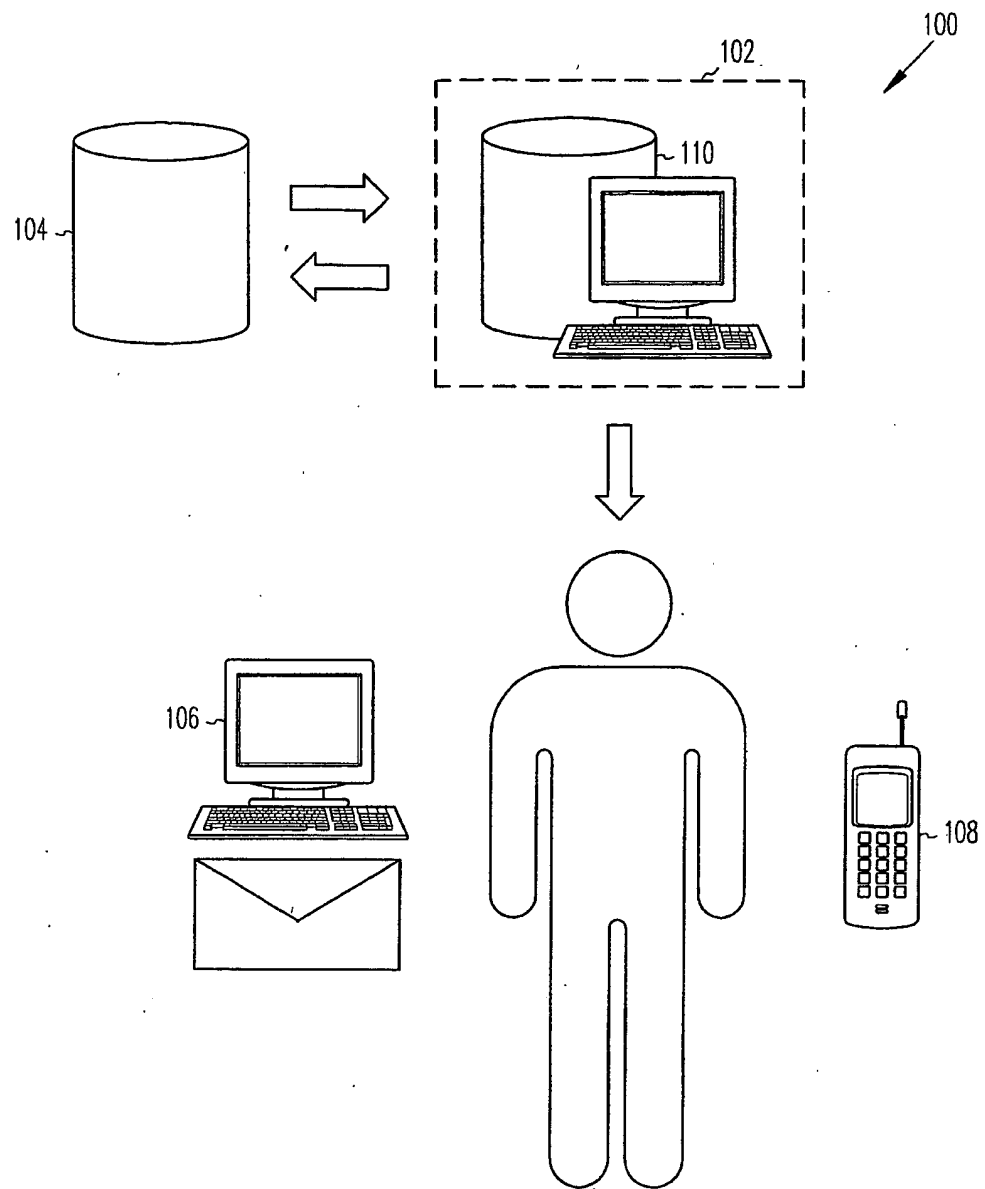
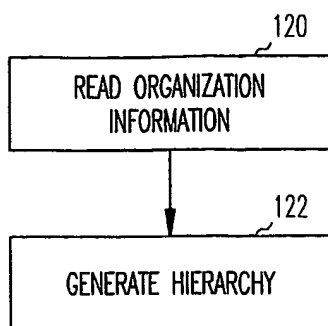
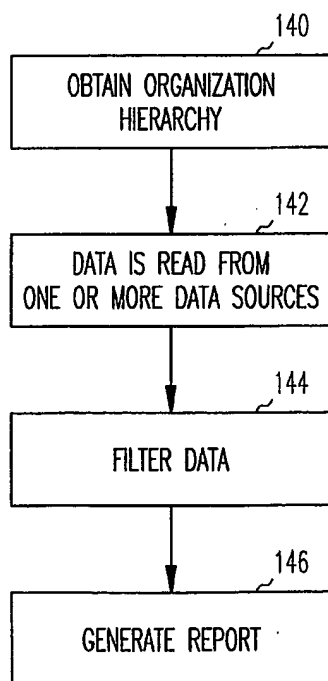


FIG. 1

2/33

**FIG. 2****FIG. 3**

3/33

EMPLOYEE ID	SUPERVISOR ID	NAME	PHONE	DEPARTMENT	EMAIL
1080	279	Machovsky, Steve	123-456-7890	Procurement Dist/Development	Steve.Machovsky@acme.com
2257	279	Johnson, Michael	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Michael.Johnson@lawson.com
2338	279	Peterson, Tom	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Tom.Peterson@acme.com
2834	279	Rogachevsky, Yelena	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Yelena.Rogachevsky@acme.com
3723	279	Austhof, Bret	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Bret.Austin@acme.com
1509	279	Kerian, Tim	123-456-7890	AS400 Dev	Tim.Kerian@acme.com
2453	279	Drinka, Jerry	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Jerry.Drinka@acme.com
2556	279	Job Wixio, Doris	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Doris.Job Wixio@acme.com
2563	279	Wolyniec, Julianne	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Julianne.Wolyniec@acme.com
2454	279	Miller, Scott	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Scott.Miller@acme.com
2968	279	Kauffman, Karla	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Karla.Kauffman@acme.com
543	297	Rich, John	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	John.Rich@acme.com
2325	297	Haider, Mark	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Mark.Haider@acme.com
2828	297	Karjala, Tracy	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Tracy.Karjala@acme.com
1831	297	Bozway, Fred	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Fred.Bozway@acme.com
2449	297	Kruger, Joleen	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Joleen.Kruger@acme.com
1470	297	Hammerschmidt, Andy	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Andy.Hammerschmidt@acme.com
2482	508	Salovich, Mike	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Mike.Salovich@acme.com
646	508	Skovbroten, Bob	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Bob.Skovbroten@acme.com
1984	508	Stokes, Deb	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Deborah.Stokes@acme.com
1089	508	Brown, Scott	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Scott.Brown@acme.com
1555	508	Belting, Robin	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Robin.Belting@acme.com
1202	508	Moran, Wayne	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Wayne.Moran@acme.com
4007	517	Schwartz, Chris	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Chris.Schwartz@acme.com
160	162		166	168	170

FIG. 4

Calls For Selected Customer -data
Filters: CUSTOMER-5522

182

CALL ID	PROD GROUP	SYSTEM CODE	CUSTOMER NAME	OWNER	PROBLEM ID	LAST MSG DATE
1310105	LGN	WE	ACME HOLDINGS	3116		11/26/2002
1320025	GL	FIN	ACME HOLDINGS	4251		11/13/2002
1320700	GL	FIN	ACME HOLDINGS	4251		11/13/2002
1326053	LGN	WE	ACME HOLDINGS	3362		11/20/2002
1327235	LGN	WE	ACME HOLDINGS	2468 ~ 160		11/21/2002

180-

FIG. 5

6/33

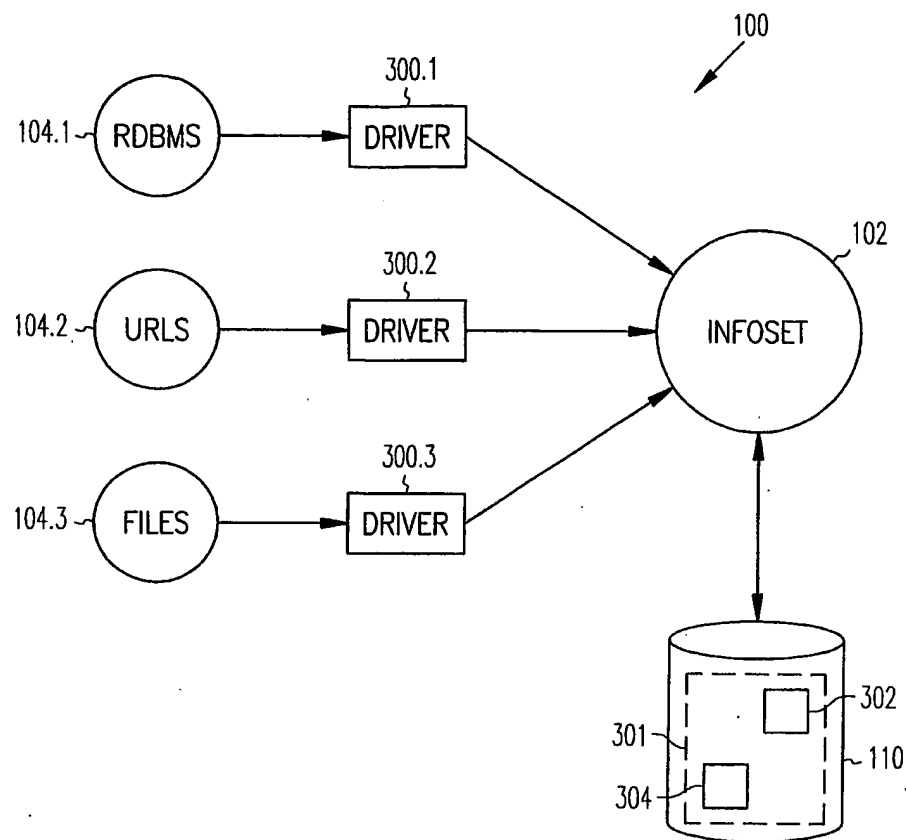


FIG. 7

7/33

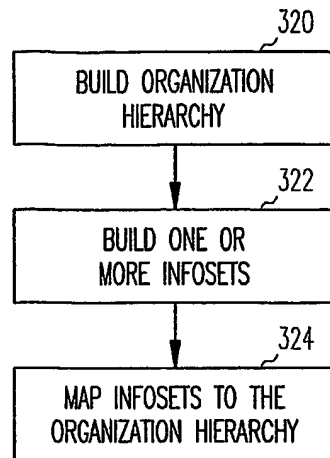


FIG. 8

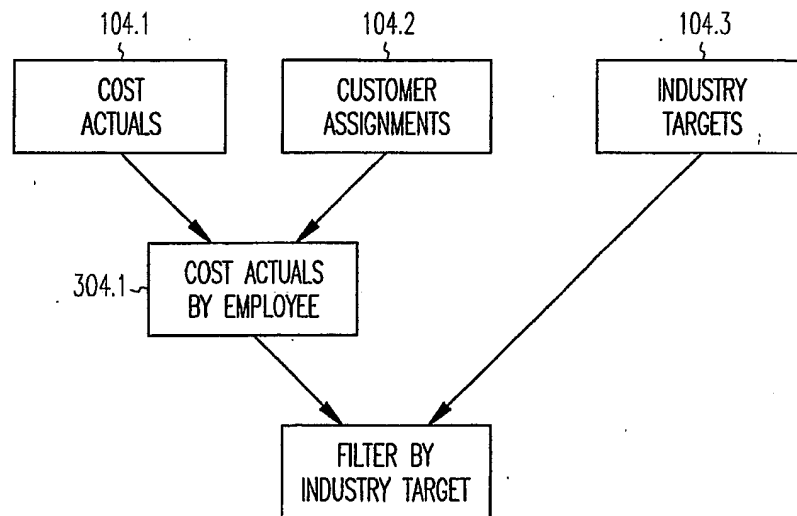


FIG. 9

Smart Notification Infoset Wizard

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back

Forward

Stop

Home

Search

Favorites

Media

Address

http://

Go

Google

New!

PageRank

»

Infoset Wizard

1

Select Data Source

2

Define InfoSet

3

Specify Links

4

Save InfoSet

Type

Select Type

▼

360

Select Type

Delimited Document

Acme DME

Hyperion Essbase

Relational Database (JDBC)

LSN I Internal Data

LDAP

Java Property Document

XML Document

Cancel

Next

Done

Local intranet

FIG. 10

9/33

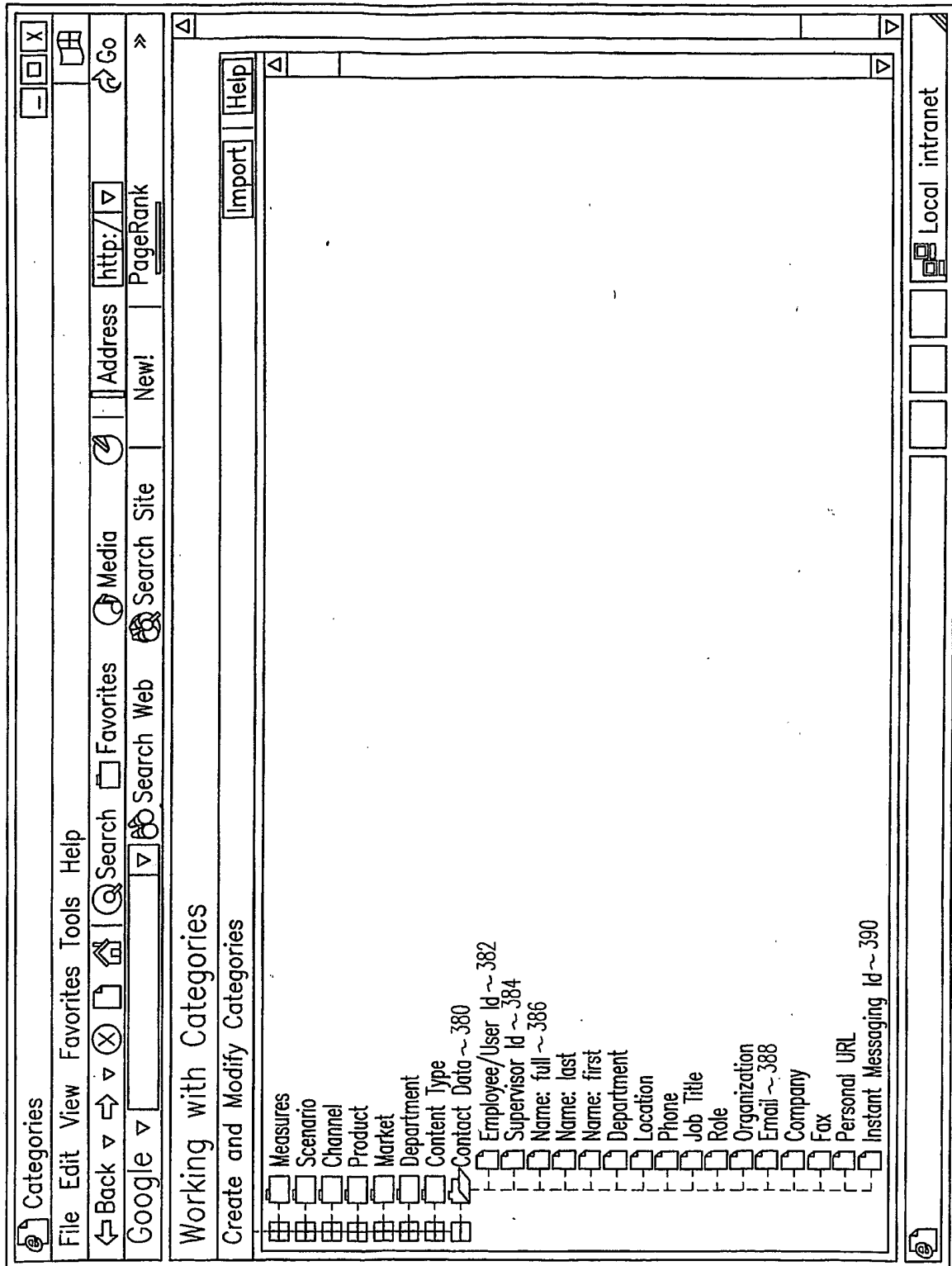


FIG. 11

10/33

http://
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Search Media Address http://
Google Search Site New! PageRank Page Info Up Highlight

EMPLOYEE ID	SUPERVISOR ID	NAME	PHONE	DEPARTMENT	EMAIL
8359	0		0208 555 5555	Facilities	Dieter.Kutzer@acme.com
8062	0	Kutzner, Dieter	49.17111111	Services	Bas.van.Lith@acme.com
8108	0			Netherlands Merchandising	Jeremy.Spencer@acme.com
8401	0			UK Merchandising Sales	Richard.Smith@acme.com
1	0	Smith, Richard	123-456-7890	Corporate Executives	Cathie.Jepson@acme.com
8363	0		0113 2222222	Corporate Administration	Chris.Angus@acme.com
8408	0			Merchandising Prod Dev	
8413	0			Merchandising Prod Dev	
8411	0			Merchandising Prod Dev	
604	1 ~ 162		44 113 2345678	Corporate Executives	Jay.Jones@acme.com
1689	67	Jones, Jay	123-456-7890	Application Products Admin	Anjan.Chakraborty@acme.com
3243	94	Chakraborty, Anjan	123-456-7890	Strategic Account Services	Mike.August@acme.com
1439	94	August, Michael	123-456-7890	Strategic Account Services	Pam.Houlihan@acme.com
1080	279	Houlihan, Pam	123-456-7890	Procurement Dist/Development	Steve.Machovsky@acme.com
2257	279	Machovsky, Steve	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Michael.Johnson@acme.com
2338	279	Johnson, Michael	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Tom.Peterson@acme.com
2834	279	Peterson, Tom	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Yelena.Rogachevsky@acme.com
3723	279	Rogachevsky, Yelena	123-456-7890	General Ledger Development	Bret.Austhof@acme.com
		Austhof, Bret			

Done Local intranet

FIG. 12

11/33

Smart Notification Infoset Wizard

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back ▾ ▸ ▸ ▸ Search Favorites Media http:// ▾ Go

Google ▾ Search Web Search Site New! PageRank ① Page Info ▾ Up ▾ Highlight

Infoset Wizard

1 2 3 4

Select Define Specify Save
Data Source Infoset Links InfoSet

Column Specifications

Key	Burst On Name	Display Name	Type	Read Format Category	Good Direction	Cur/Date	Format	Dec Places	Column	Move	Remove
Key	<input type="checkbox"/> Employee Id	Employee Id	integer	integer	⊕	n/a	n/a	0	▽	X	
Key	<input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor Id	Supervisor Id	integer	integer	⊕	n/a	n/a	1	△	X	
Key	<input type="checkbox"/> Name	Name	string	string	⊕	n/a	n/a	3	△	X	
attribute	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone	Phone	string	string	⊕	n/a	n/a	2	△	X	
Key	<input type="checkbox"/> Department	Department	string	string	⊕	n/a	n/a	4	△	X	
Key	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	Email	string	string	⊕	n/a	n/a	5	△	X	

402 406 404

Cancel Previous Next Save Updates Save As New

Local intranet

FIG. 13

400

FIG. 14

http://

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Reload Home Search Favorites Media Address http://

Google Search Web Search Site New! PageRank Page Info Up Highlight

Call Id	CUSTOMER	Action	Prod Group	System Code	Customer Name	Last Msg Date	Owner Name	Own First Name	Problem Company Id
1257244	2987	3	EUW	PP	ACME METRO BACME	05/30/2002	2993	Troester Ron	70944 1
1260340	2389	3	EUW	PP	CACME	06/13/2002	3211	Bliyang Bruce	1
1265824	5796	3	LGN	WE	CROWACME	03/18/2003	3471	Kjos Brady	94975 1
1266029	5725	3	LIDE	WE	ACME REHAB	03/10/2003	1810	Campbell Aaron	1
1267563	2879	3	MA	PROC	ACME FARM	03/17/2003	4133	Pop p Corey	82785 1
1273879	5575	3	LIDE	WE	ACME HEALTH	03/04/2003	3471	Kjos Brady	1
1278282	2004045	3	PR	HR	ACME APPAREL	03/18/2003	4302	Lomoro Karen	91327 1
1294878	4482	3	BN	HR	ACME MEDICAL	03/18/2003	3932	Hoffman Robert	1
1295970	5581	3	EDB	PP	SCHOOL BOARD	10/18/2002	4409	Millard Mary	1
1298219	5321	3	EUW	PP	ZACME	03/18/2003	3691	Wooley Elizabeth	3
1309654	5558	3	MA	PROC	Services Techni	03/15/2003	3331	Cole Judith	106246 1
1310803	5558 420	3	AR	FIN	Services Techni	02/03/2003	141 2	Hartwig Barb	97773 1
1313989	5824	3	LGN	WE	GACME	01/24/2003	3471	Kjos Brady	1
1316275	5162	3	PO	PROC	HACME	03/17/2003	3331	Cole Judith	101366 1
1316846	5388	3	BN	HR	ACME UNIVERSI	01/15/2003	2940	Evans Diane	104275 1
13176 01	526 6	2	AC	FIN	HACME	03/19/2003	2666	Parish Richard	106293 1
1322257	5446	3	GL	FIN	LACME	03/14/2003	4400	Knauss Georgia	100831 1
1323056	4216	3	PR	HR	MACME	03/17/2003	4205	Miller Dan	1
1325748	5558	3	MA	PROC	Services Techni	03/18/2003	4394	Appel Bryan	103815 1
1327848	5061	3	GL	FIN	PACME	01/06/2003	4388	Trembath Mary	103400 1
1329167	4106	3	LGN	WE	TACME	01/31/2003	3362	Pandey Suraj	1

Done 422 424 434 428 430 432 426

Local intranet

13/33

FIG. 15

Smart Notification Infoset Wizard

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Search Favorites Media Address http:// Go

Google Search Web Search Site New! PageRank 1 Page Info Up Highlight

Infoset Wizard

1 Select Define Sp
Data Source InfoSet

Column Specifications

Key	Burst On Name	Display Name	Type	Read Format	Category	Good Direction	Cur/Date	Format	Dec	Places	Duplica
Key	CALL-ID	Call Id	string	n/a ~ 440		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	
Key	CUSTOMER	CUSTOMER	string	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	
measure	ACTIONPRIORITY	Action Priority	integer	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	
Key	PROD-GROUP	Prod Group	string	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	
Key	SYSTEM_CODE	System Code	string	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	
Key	CUST-DESC	Customer Name	string	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	
attribute	LASTMSGDATE	Last Msg Date	string	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	
Key	Employee Id	Owner	string	n/a	382 Employee/User Id	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	
Key	OWNLASTNAME	Own Last Name	string	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	
Key	OWNFIRSTNAME	Own First Name	string	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	
Key	PROBLEM-ID	Problem Id	string	n/a		+	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	
measure	COMPANY	Company	integer	n/a	442	+	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	

Cancel Previous Next Save Updates Save As New

Done Local intranet

14/33

Smart Notification

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Address http:// Go

Google Search Web Search Site New! PageRank Page Info Links

Select Range of Facts

Name:
Warning Calls with Owner

Description:

Measure 438

Name

Action Priority ~ 434 ☐ Total ☐ Average ☐ Min. ☐ Max. ☒ Count

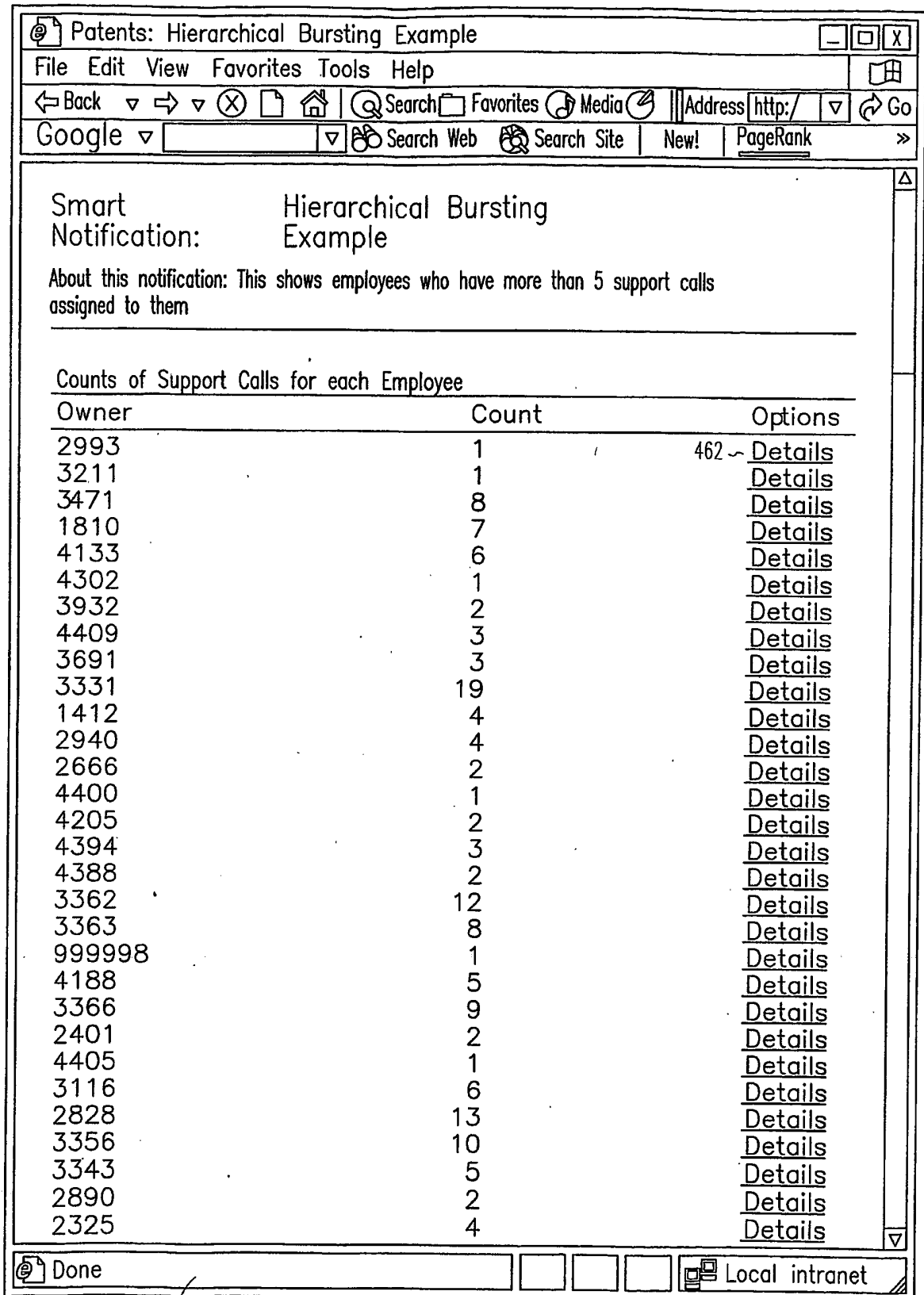
Company ~ 436 ☐ Total ☐ Average ☐ Min. ☐ Max. ☐ Count

Items

<p>Call Id ~ 422</p> <p>[All] <input type="button" value="Up"/> <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>1257244</p> <p>1260340</p> <p>1265824</p> <p>1266029 <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>Clear All Select All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Make this a parameter</p>	<p>CUSTOMER ~ 424</p> <p>[All] <input type="button" value="Up"/> <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>1410</p> <p>1739</p> <p>1779</p> <p>1852 <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>Clear All Select All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Make this a parameter</p>
<p>Prod Group ~ 428</p> <p>[All] <input type="button" value="Up"/> <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>AC</p> <p>AM</p> <p>AP</p> <p>AR <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>Clear All Select All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Make this a parameter</p>	<p>System Code ~ 430</p> <p>[All] <input type="button" value="Up"/> <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>DIST</p> <p>EPM</p> <p>FIN</p> <p>HR <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>Clear All Select All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Make this a parameter</p>
<p>Customer Name ~ 432</p> <p>[All] <input type="button" value="Up"/> <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>ACME RENTS, IN</p> <p>ACME GOVERNMENT</p> <p>ACME HEALTH</p> <p>ACME GENERAL <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>Clear All Select All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Make this a parameter</p>	<p>Owner ~ 426</p> <p>[All] <input type="button" value="Up"/> <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>1412</p> <p>1667</p> <p>1800</p> <p>1810 <input type="button" value="Down"/></p> <p>Clear All Select All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Make this a parameter</p>

FIG. 16

15/33



16/33

FIG. 18

Smart Notification

File

Edit

View

Favorites

Tools

Help

Back

Forward

Search

Home

Media

Address

Go

Google

Search Site

Search Web

PageRank

Page Info

Up

»

Notifications

Reminders

Files

Personal Settings

Activity

Search

Admin

Help

Welcome, 4738

1

2

3

4

5

Notifications Wizard ~488

Select Facts

Conditions

Delivery

Related Info

Save

Set Conditions for "

Condition

Calculation

Combine

Hide Advanced Options

Tell me if:

480

Counts of Support Calls for each Employee

▼

482

is greater than

▼

484

5

Make this a parameter

▼

☐ Compare with a variable or another selection

☐ Show all rows (not only those that meet condition)

Lower is better

▼

Add

My Selections

Name	Type	Actions	Remove
Counts of Support Calls for each Employee	Multi-Fact	Edit	<input type="checkbox"/>
304			
Remove Checked Selections		Clear All Selections	

Cancel

Next

Done

Preview

Local intranet

17/33

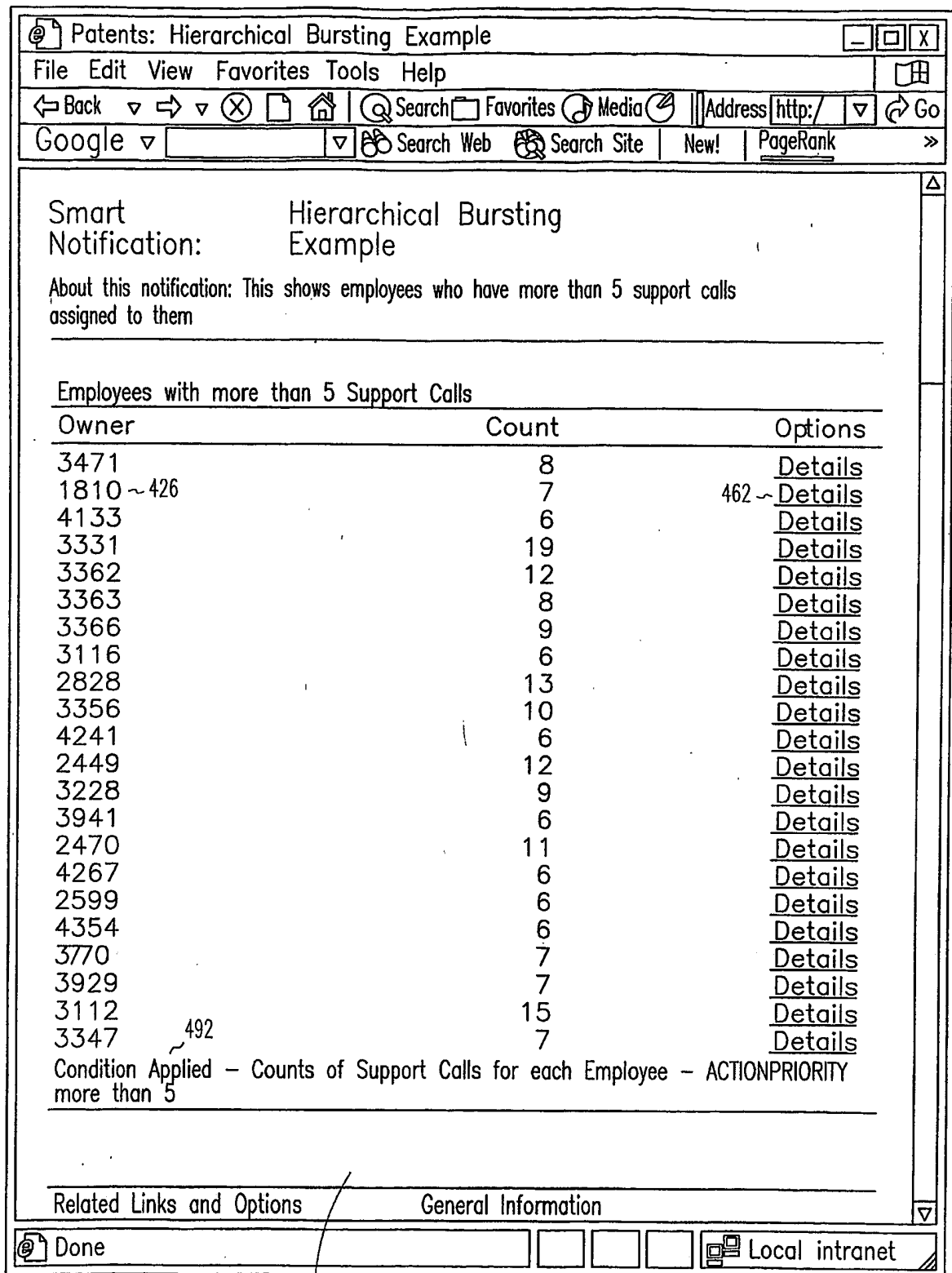


FIG. 20

Smart Notification

File

Edit

View

Favorites

Tools

Help

Back

Forward

Stop

Home

Search

Media

Address

http://

Go

Google

Search

Search Web

Search Site

New!

PageRank

Page Info

Up

»

SMART NOTIFICATION

Welcome, 4738

Notifications

Reminders

Files

Personal Settings

Activity

Search

Admin

Help

1

2

3

4

5

Notifications Wizard ~488

Select Facts

Conditions

Delivery

Related Info

Save

Set Conditions for

Condition

Calculation

Combine

Hide Advanced Options

From the values in:

Employee with more than 5 Support Calls

Calculate:

Hierarchy

Display original data

Add

Select from these columns:

Employee Id ~504

My Selections

Name	Type	Actions	Remove
Counts of Support Calls for each Employees	Multi-Fact	Edit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employee with more than 5 Support Calls	Condition	Edit	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remove Checked Selections

Clear All Selections

Cancel

Next

Done

Preview

Done

Local intranet

19/33

Patents: Hierarchical Bursting Example

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Address http:// Go

Google Search Web Search Site New! PageRank >>

Smart Notification: Hierarchical Bursting Example

About this notification: This shows employees who have more than 5 support calls assigned to them

Employees with more than 5 Support Calls (In Org)

Hierarchy	Owner	Count	Options
-Smith, Richard			
-Jone, Jay			
-Morgan, Eric			
-Orndorff, Cole			
-Bullis, Paula			
-Amend, Mike	160		
-Pedersen, Holly	3		
-Gustafson, Jon	3356	10	Details
-Klinepier, Julie	3941	6	Details
-Sheagley, Nate	3112	15	Details
-Teuber, Kevin			
-Pruitt, Bud	3929	7	Details
-Anderson, Nancy			
-Aufderheide, Jason			
-Johnson, Scott	3770	7	Details
-Slavik, Robert	2470	11	Details
-Insley, Susan			
-Dey, Greg	2599	6	Details
-O'Neill, Jean			
-Carlson, Chad			
-Cole, Judy	3331	19	Details
-Koll, Kirsten	3366	9	Details
-Popp, Corey	4133	6	Details
-Reece, Omar			
-Keys, Karen	4354	6	Details

Done Local intranet

FIG. 21

FIG. 23

Smart Notification

File

Edit

View

Favorites

Tools

Help

Back

Forward

Home

Search

Media

Address

Go

Google

Search Web

Search Site

New!

PageRank

Page Info

Up

Highlight

SMART NOTIFICATION

Welcome, 4738

Notifications

Reminders

Files

Personal Settings

Activity

Search

Admin

Help

Notifications Wizard ~488

1

2

3

4

5

Select Facts Conditions Delivery Related Info Save

Set Conditions for

Results to Include

Auto-Relate

Custom Links

Formatting Template

Gallery: Default

☐ Do not display empty tables
Counts of Support Calls for each Employee
Employeees with more than 5 Support Calls
Employeees with more than 5 Support Calls (In Org)

Do not Display

Do not Display

Table With IM Icons

Pie Chart: Top 90%

Default Chart

Line Chart

Area Chart

Horizontal Chart

Quad / XY Chart

Table With IM Icons

Round Buttons

Dial

Gauge

Custom

☐ Include default table. Options Customize Links
☐ Include default table. Options Customize Links
☐ Include default table. Options Customize Links

Cancel

Next

Done

Preview

Local intranet

22/33

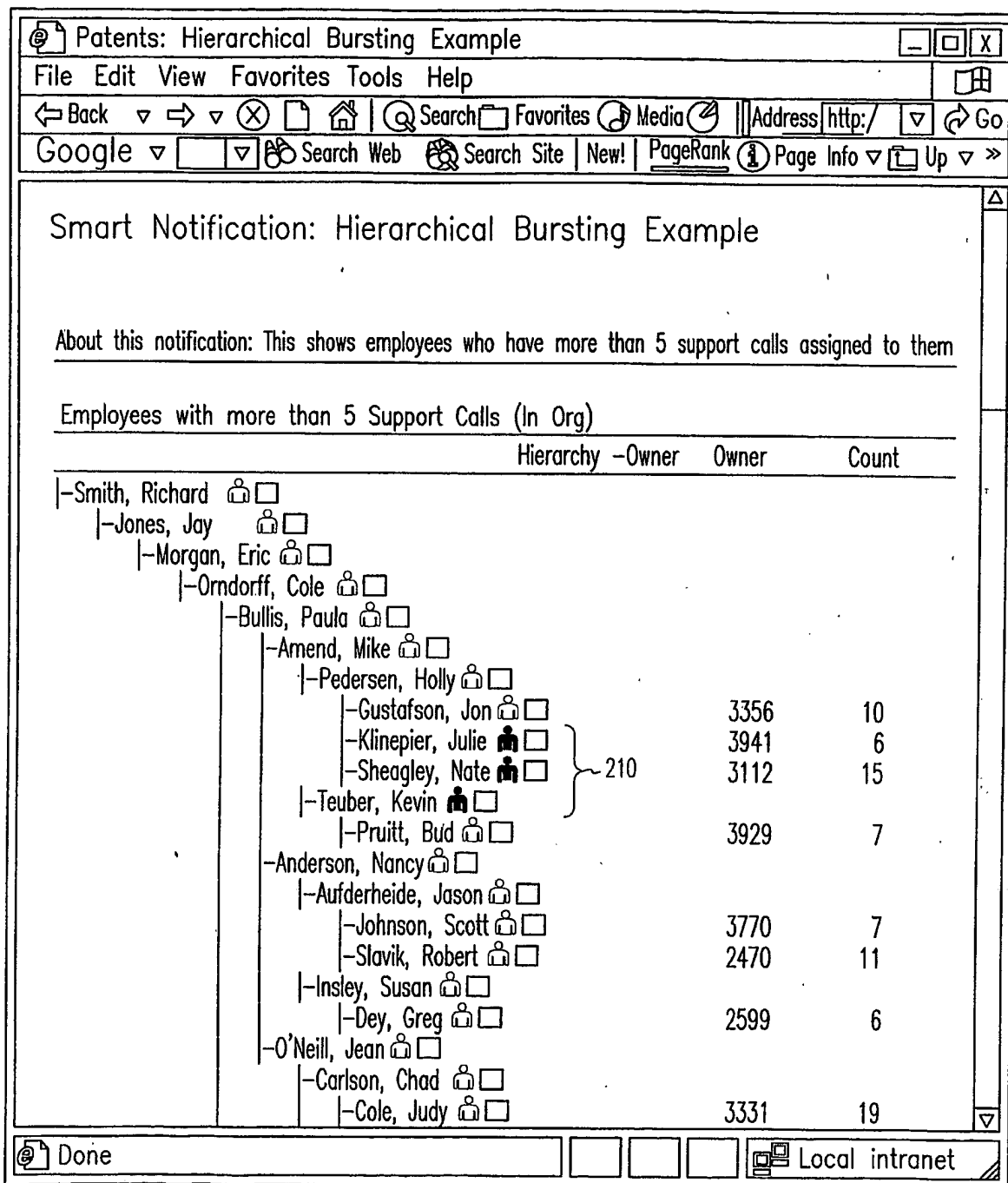


FIG. 24A

23/33

Burst test - Hierarchical Bursting Example - Jean.O'Neal@acme.com

File Edit View Tools Message Help

Reply Reply All Forward Print Delete Previous Next Addresses

From: fred@localhost
 Date: Friday, March 21, 2003 5:51 PM
 To: fred@localhost
 Subject: Burst test - Hierarchical Bursting Example - Jean.O'Neill@acme.com

Smart Notification: Hierarchical Bursting Example

About this notification: This shows employees who have more than 5 support calls assigned to them

Employees with more than 5 Support Calls (In Org)

Hierarchy	-Owner	Owner	Count
-Smith, Richard			
-Jones, Jay			
-Morgan, Eric			
-Orndorff, Cole			
-Bullis, Paula			
-O'Neill, Jean			
-Carlson, Chad			
-Cole, Judy		3331	19
-Koll, Kirsten		3366	9
-Popp, Corey		4133	6
-Reece, Omar			
-Keys, Karen		4354	6

Related Links and Options

General Information

System	James' Server
Group	Patents
Data	Warning Calls with Owner as of
Source	3/21/03 12:21 AM
Generated	March 21, 2003 5:51:46 PM EST
Content Id	9849

FIG. 24B

24/33

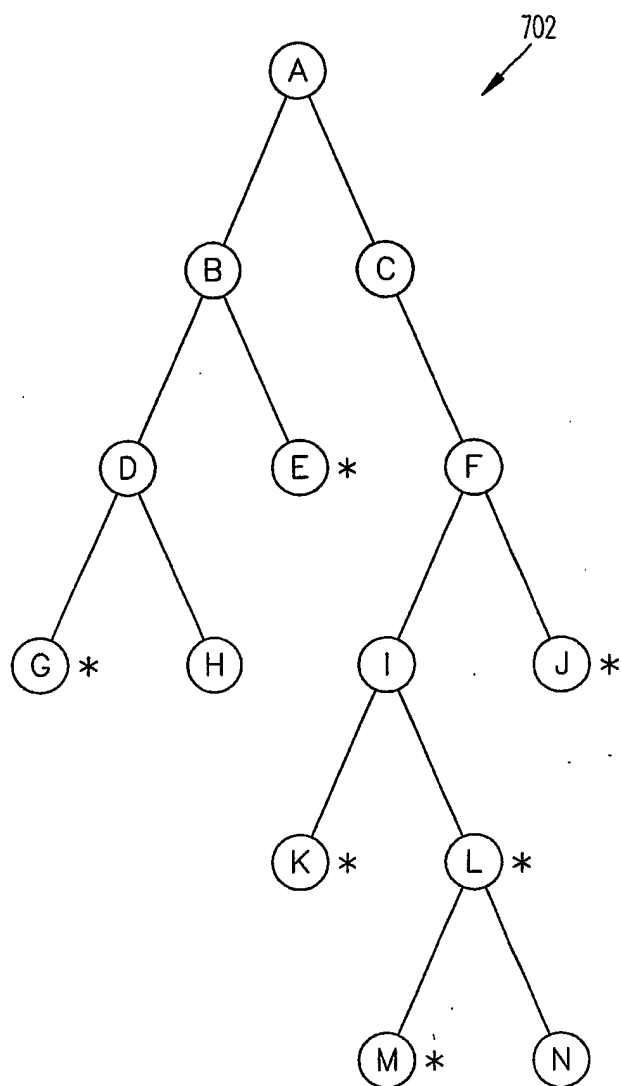


FIG. 25

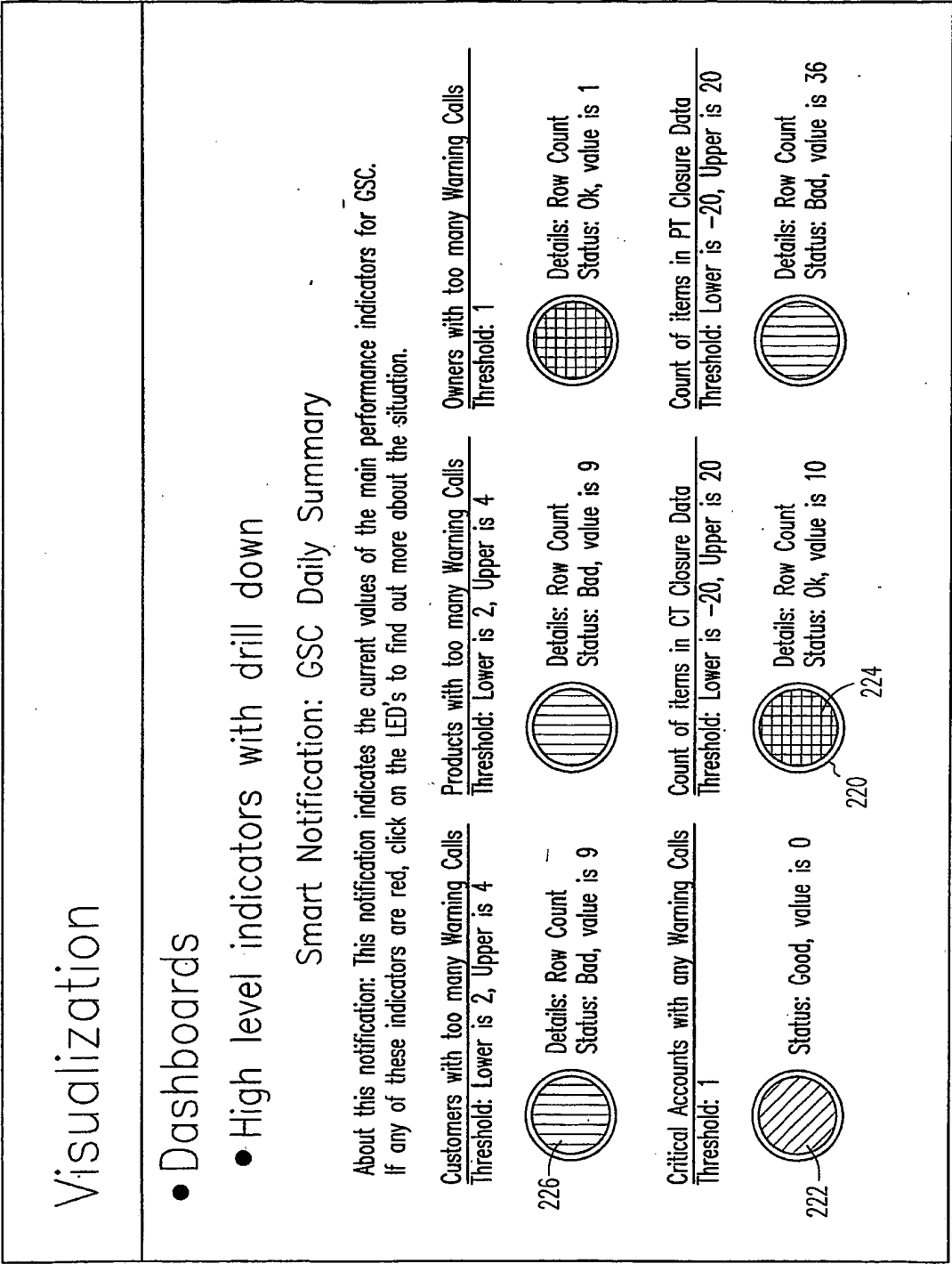
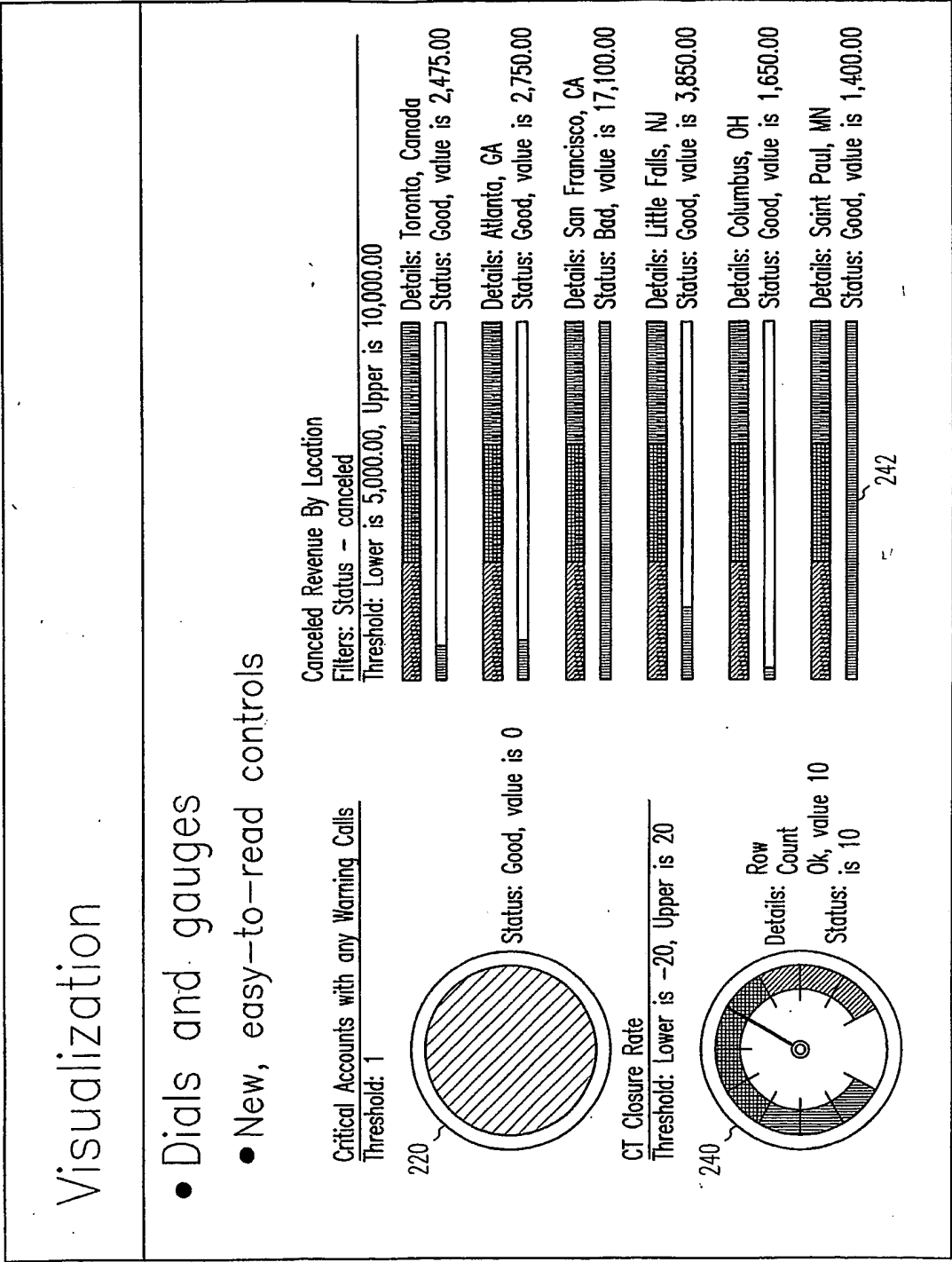


FIG. 26



27/33

FIG. 28

Smart Notification

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back ▾ ↵ Search Favorites Media Address http:// Go

Google ▾ Search Web Search Site New! PageRank 1 Page Info ▾ Up ▾ »

SMART NOTIFICATION

Welcome, 4738

Notifications Reminders Files Personal Settings Activity Search Admin Help

Notifications Wizard ~488

1 2 3 4 5

Select Facts Conditions Delivery Related Info Save

Bursting for

Device Schedule Bursting Add Message Box Add Device

Filter and deliver using the notification data and these settings:

Determine recipients using data in this table

520 Employees with more than 5 Support Calls (In Org) ▾

522 and this column

522 (HIER) Employee Id ▾

524 and generate email addresses by

524 Collating and delivering to the 6th level of the hierarchy ▾

526 Select the Info Set Column that contains the appropriate hierarchy and delivery addresses

526 Employees - Email ▾

528 Select a delivery option

528 Deliver to the recipients ▾

530 Also burst this to Acme Instant Messaging

Cancel Next Done Preview

Done Local intranet

28/33

Smart Notification _ □ X

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help □

← Back ▾
→ ▾
⊗
□
🏠
🔍 Search □
🔖 Favorites
🎵 Media
📄
Address http:// ▾
↗ Go

Google ▾
 🔍 Search Web
🔍 Search Site
New!
PageRank
① Page Info ▾
📄 Up ▾ >>

SMART NOTIFICATION Welcome, 4738

Notifications
Reminders
Files
Personal Settings
Activity
Search
Admin
Help

Notifications Wizard

①
②
③
④
⑤

Select Facts Conditions Delivery Related Info Save

Bursting for ""

Device
Schedule
Bursting
Add Message Box | Add Device

Filter and deliver using the notification data and these settings:

Determine recipients using data in this table

Employees with more than 5 Support Calls (In Org) ▾ ~ 520

and this column

(HIER) Employee Id ▾ ~ 522

and generate email addresses by

Collating and delivering to the 6th level of the hierarchy ▾	<input type="checkbox"/> Also burst this to Acme Instant Messaging delivery addresses
Collating and delivering to the supervisor (up one level) ▲	
Collating and delivering up two levels	
Collating and delivering up three levels	
Collating and delivering up four levels	
Collating and delivering up one and two levels	
Collating and delivering up two and three levels	
Collating and delivering up three and four levels	
Collating and delivering to the top of the hierarchy	
Collating and delivering to the 2nd level of the hierarchy	
Collating and delivering to the 3rd level of the hierarchy	
Collating and delivering to the 4th level of the hierarchy ▾	

524

Cancel
Next
Done
Preview

📄 Done
□
□
□
🖨 Local intranet

FIG. 29

29/33

Burst test - Hierarchical Bursting Example - Michael.Amend@acme.com

File Edit View Tools Message Help

Reply Reply All Forward Print Delete Previous Next Addresses

From: fred@localhost
 Date: Friday, March 21, 2003 5:29 PM
 To: fred@localhost
 Subject: Burst test - Hierarchical Bursting Example - Michael.Amend@acme.com

Smart Notification: Hierarchical Bursting Example

About this notification: This shows employees who have more than 5 support calls assigned to them

Employees with more than 5 Support Calls (In Org)

Hierarchy	Owner	Count	Options
-Smith, Richard			
-Jones, Jay			
-Morgan, Eric			
-Orndorff, Cole			
-Bullis, Paula			
-Amend, Mike			
-Pederson, Holly			
-Gustafson, Jon	3356	10	Details
-Klinepier, Julie	3941	6	Details
-Sheagley, Nate	3112	15	Details
-Teuber, Kevin			
-Pruitt, Bud	3929	7	Details

Related Links and Options

Options

General Information

System James' Server
 Group Patents
 Data Warning Calls with Owner as of
 Source 3/21/03 12:21 AM
 Generated March 21, 2003 5:29:53 PM EST
 Content Id 9849

FIG. 30

30/33

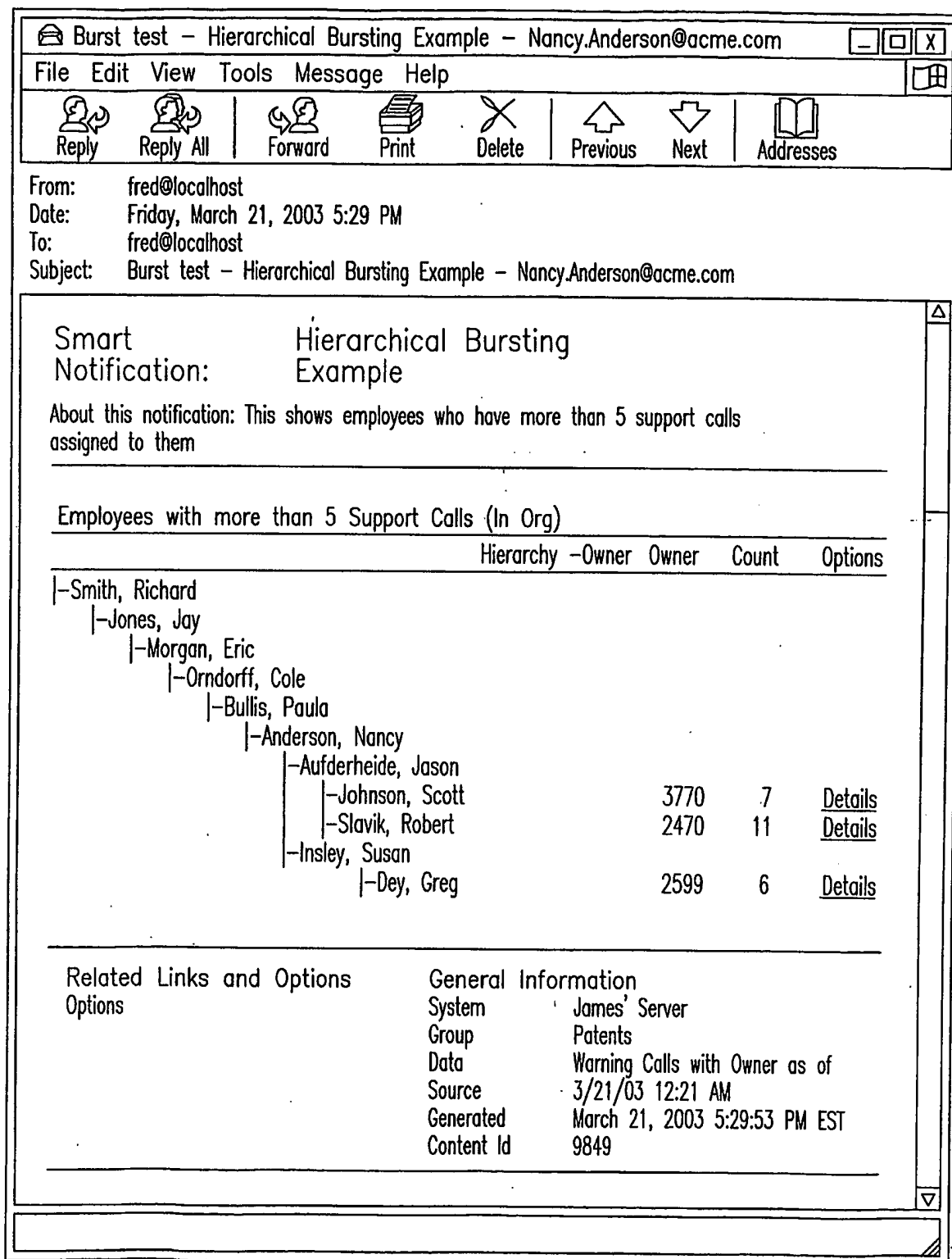


FIG. 31

31/33

Burst test - Hierarchical Bursting Example - Jean.O'Neal@acme.com

File Edit View Tools Message Help

Reply Reply All Forward Print Delete Previous Next Addresses

From: fred@localhost
 Date: Friday, March 21, 2003 5:29 PM
 To: fred@localhost
 Subject: Burst test - Hierarchical Bursting Example - Jean.O'Neill@acme.com

Smart Notification: Hierarchical Bursting Example

About this notification: This shows employees who have more than 5 support calls assigned to them

Employees with more than 5 Support Calls (In Org)

Hierarchy	Owner	Count	Options
-Smith, Richard			
-Jones, Jay			
-Morgan, Eric			
-Orndorff, Cole			
-Bullis, Paula			
-O'Neill, Jean			
-Carlson, Chad			
-Cole, Judy	3331	19	Details
-Koll, Kirsten	3366	9	Details
-Popp, Corey	4133	6	Details
-Reece, Omar			
-Keys, Karen	4354	6	Details

Related Links and Options

Options

General Information

System	James' Server
Group	Patents
Data	Warning Calls with Owner as of
Source	3/21/03 12:21 AM
Generated	March 21, 2003 5:29:53 PM EST
Content Id	9849

FIG. 32

32/33

Customize Links

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back → Search Favorites Media Address http:// Go

Google v Search Web Search Site New! PageRank Page Info Up v Highlight

Customize links for 'Employees with more than 5 Support Calls (In Org)'
For this table, select how you would like links to applications and other notifications to be handled.

☐ Include a 'details' links on each row and dynamically generate a details page every time ~802
☐ Do not display any links ~804
☒ Customize the links using the information below ~806

Links to Recommended Analyses

Link To	Using	Add Link To	Comment	Window
<input type="checkbox"/> Employees With Same Supervisor	Employee Id			
<input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor	Employee Id			
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Reports	Employee Id			
<input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor 2	Employee Id			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warning Calls For Owner	Employee Id		Click to see calls assigned to this person	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Link	No Parameters			
	null			816

808

Links to Applications

Link To	Using	Add Link To	Comment	Window
812 ~ <input type="checkbox"/> Open CT	CALL-ID			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open PT	PROBLEM-ID			
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Group	CUSTOMER			
<input type="checkbox"/> PSA Test	unknown			

OK Cancel

Done Local intranet

FIG. 33

33/33

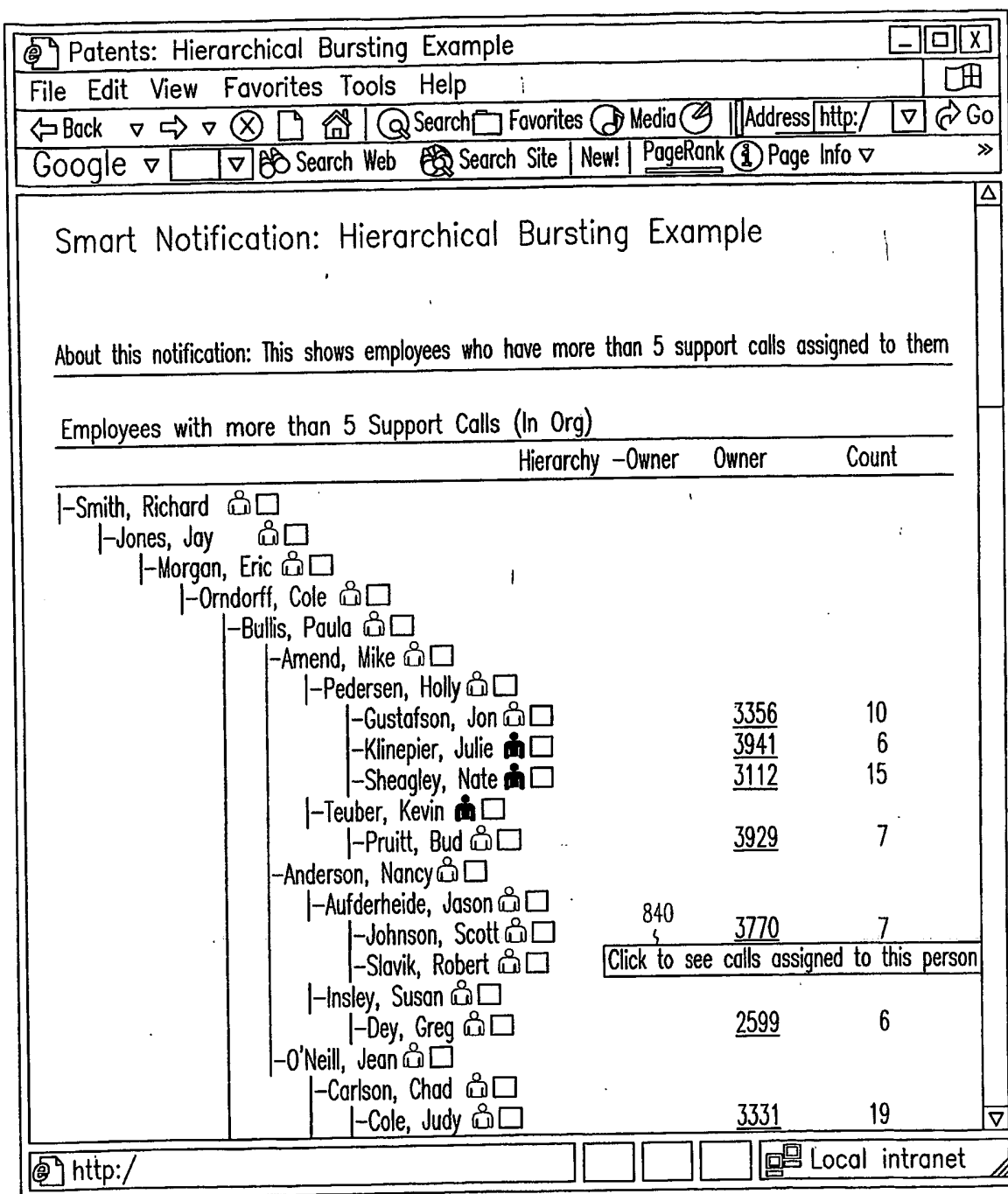


FIG. 34

SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US2004/012386

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/27813 A (FREEWORKS COM INC) 19 April 2001 (2001-04-19) page 6, lines 3-16 page 12, line 3 - page 13, line 2 page 26, lines 3-14	1-30
A	US 2002/194275 A1 (SAKIMURA SHIGETOSHI ET AL) 19 December 2002 (2002-12-19) page 1, paragraph 13 - page 2, paragraph 18	1-30
A	US 6 067 548 A (CHENG EDWARD C) 23 May 2000 (2000-05-23) column 3, line 15 - column 5, line 20	1-30

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/10/2004

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Authorized officer

Breidenich, M

SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

PCT/US2004/012386

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0127813	A	19-04-2001	AU 7998000 A WO 0127813 A1 US 6745196 B1	23-04-2001 19-04-2001 01-06-2004
US 2002194275	A1	19-12-2002	JP 2003006395 A US 2002194277 A1	10-01-2003 19-12-2002
US 6067548	A	23-05-2000	AU 5214599 A CN 1302413 T EP 1031101 A1 WO 0004468 A1	07-02-2000 04-07-2001 30-08-2000 27-01-2000